



US005509716A

United States Patent [19]

Kolena et al.

[11] Patent Number: 5,509,716

[45] Date of Patent: Apr. 23, 1996

[54] VEHICLE SEAT WITH PERIMETER FRAME AND PELVIC CATCHER

[75] Inventors: David P. Kolena, Bloomfield Hills;
Paul A. Glines, Chesterfield; Robert
S. Crane, Waukegan; Mladen Humer,
Eastpointe; David C. Viano, Bloomfield
Hills; Richard J. Neely, Casco, all of
Mich.

[73] Assignee: General Motors Corporation, Detroit,
Mich.

[21] Appl. No.: 335,591

[22] Filed: Nov. 8, 1994

[51] Int. Cl.⁶ B60R 21/00[52] U.S. Cl. 297/216.13; 297/452.18;
297/216.1[58] Field of Search 297/216.1, 216.13,
297/216.14, 452.18, 452.2, 354.12, 452.53,
452.52

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Primary Examiner—Milton Nelson, Jr.
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Ernest E. Helms

[57]

ABSTRACT

A vehicle seat is providing including a seat bottom frame; a generally U-shaped seat back frame with an upper cross member with legs pivotally mounted with respect to the seat bottom frame, the seat back cross member being generally at least approximately 470 millimeters along a line generally parallel to the torso of a seated occupant from an H point of the seated occupant, and the cross member being concavely bowed if under approximately 525 millimeters from the H point of the seated occupant; and a deformable lower cross member having ends fixably connected to the seat back legs being concavely bowed, the cross member having a major dimension oriented generally parallel to the torso of the seated occupant, the lower cross member having an upper and a lower end, the lower cross member upper end being vertically above the H point of a seated occupant when the seat back frame is positioned in a normal seating position and where in a rear crash situation, the lower cross member deforms to pivot its lower end further away from the seat back frame legs than its top end to capture the seated occupant's pelvic region between the lower cross member and the bottom frame.

6 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets

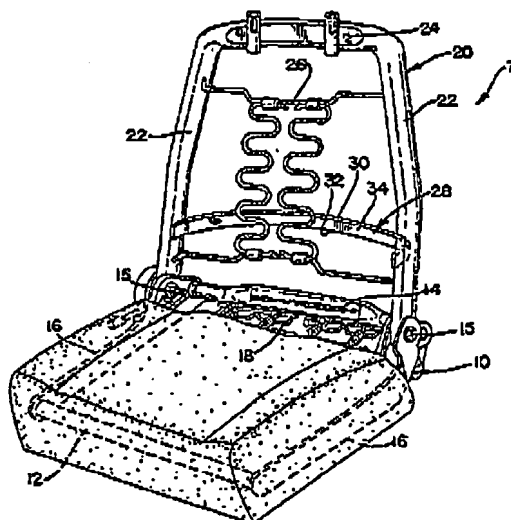


Exhibit 2



US005568961A

United States Patent [19]**Colasanti**[11] **Patent Number:** **5,568,961**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Oct. 29, 1996**[54] **TUBULAR SEAT FRAME**[75] **Inventor:** Ardaino Colasanti, Eastpointe, Mich.[73] **Assignee:** Findlay Industries, Troy, Mich.[21] **Appl. No.:** 288,450[22] **Filed:** Aug. 10, 1994[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** B60N 2/02[52] **U.S. Cl.** 297/362.12; 297/452.2;
297/362.13; 297/354.1[58] **Field of Search** 297/362.12, 354.1,
297/362.13, 452.18, 452.2, 463.1[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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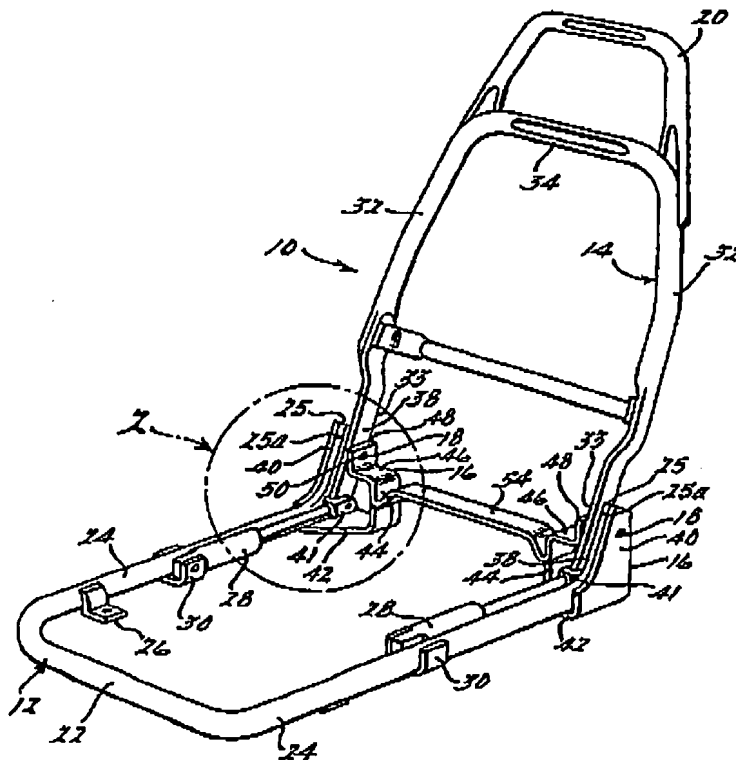
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Primary Examiner—Laurie K. Cranmer*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Dinnin & Dunn, P.C.[57] **ABSTRACT**

The device is a tubular seat frame for use in a vehicle application. The seat frame including a generally U-shaped seat base frame connected to a bracket member and a generally U-shaped seat back frame pivotally connected to the seat base frame through the bracket member for variable positioning by means of an adjustment means attached to the lower end of the seat back frame. The bracket member provides an extra wall at the pivot point to further support and retain the seat back frame. The bracket member providing a design for a lightweight seat frame which reduces overall weight while at the same time retaining its strength integrity.

7 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets



US005636901A

United States Patent [19]

Grilliot et al.

[11] Patent Number: **5,636,901**[45] Date of Patent: **Jun. 10, 1997**[54] **AIRCRAFT PASSENGER SEAT FRAME**

[75] Inventors: Ronald Grilliot, Plantation; Patrick Murphy, Miami, both of Fla.

[73] Assignee: Aircraft Modular Products, Inc., Miami, Fla.

[21] Appl. No.: 490,791

[22] Filed: Jun. 15, 1995

[51] Int. Cl.⁶ A47C 7/02

[52] U.S. Cl. 297/452.18; 297/452.2;

297/452.55; 297/216.1; 297/362.13; 248/188.1

[58] Field of Search 297/452.18, 452.2,
297/362.13, 216.1, 216.3, 243, 248, 452.55;
248/440.1, 188.1

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Primary Examiner—Peter M. Cuomo

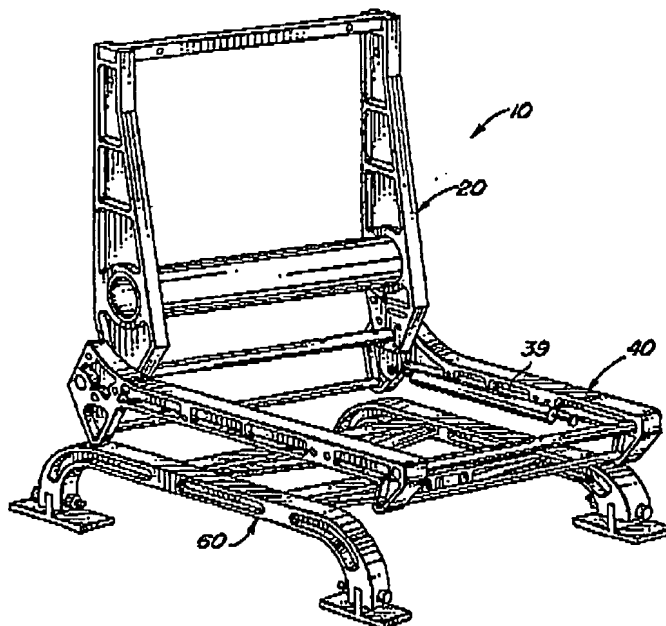
Assistant Examiner—Rodney B. White

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Malloy & Malloy, P.A.

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An aircraft seat frame including a seat back portion, a seat foundation portion, and a seat base portion, the seat back portion having a pair of generally vertically disposed side rails composed of three interconnected segments, a leading and a trailing edge segments of which are perpendicularly disposed on opposing sides of an interior segment, thereby substantially minimizing an overall weight of the side rails and maximizing the side rails resistance to horizontal bending across a plane of the leading and trailing segments. Further, the seat frame includes a load transference member spanning the side rails so as to evenly distribute a load exerted on only a single of the side rails over both side rails and over the corresponding seat side rails to which the seat back side rails are connected. Further, the frame includes a seat base portion having a pair of seat side rails with support members pivotally secured at opposite ends thereof, the support members being fixedly secured to an underlying support surface.

15 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets





US005749135A

United States Patent [19]

Crane et al.

[11] Patent Number: **5,749,135**[45] Date of Patent: **May 12, 1998**[54] **METHOD FOR EXTRUDING INTEGRAL SEAT BACK FRAME**

[75] Inventors: Robert Scott Crane, Waterford; David Philip Kolena, Bloomfield Hills; Alan Dean Berg, North Washington, all of Mich.

[73] Assignee: General Motors Corporation, Detroit, Mich.

[21] Appl. No.: 820,598

[22] Filed: Mar. 19, 1997

[51] Int. Cl.⁶ B23P 17/00

[52] U.S. Cl. 29/415; 29/417; 297/452.2; 72/254; 72/256; 72/369; 72/370

[58] Field of Search 29/897.2, 415, 29/417; 297/452.18, 452.19, 452.2; 72/254, 256, 367, 368, 369, 370

[56] References Cited

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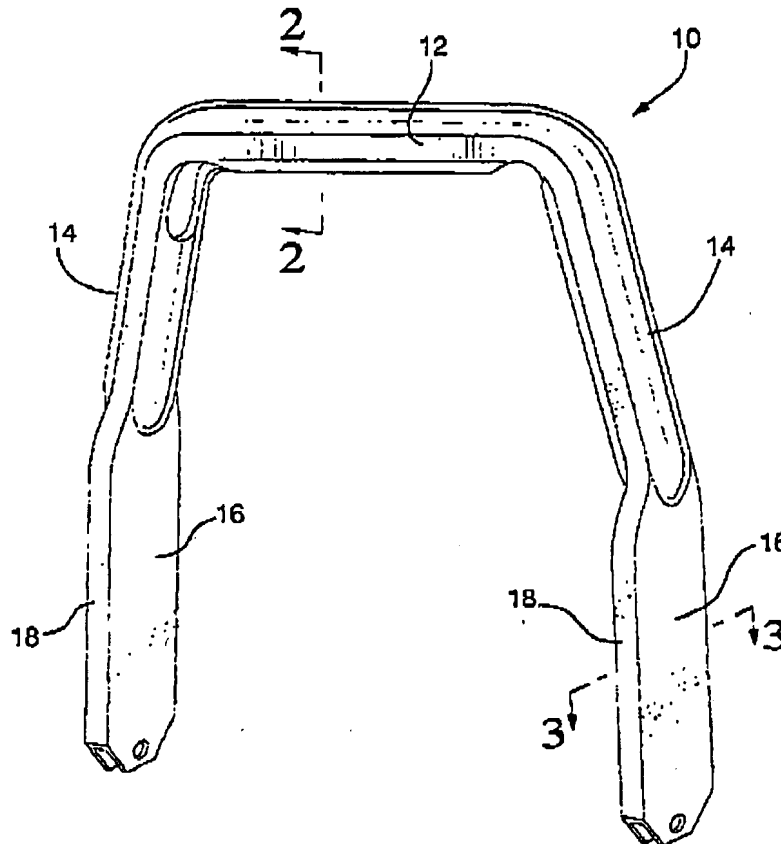
Primary Examiner—David P. Bryant

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Patrick M. Griffin

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method for producing a U shaped seat back frame from a single extruded blank. The blank's cross section is nearly circular, but with a pair of short, flattened off crests that create a pair of concentric arcs, in cross section. Over a length of each end of the blank, a rectangular cross section, solid mandrel is inserted between the crests and the arcs are flattened against the mandrel. The arcs are flattened into wider side walls, while the crests move apart, without deformation, to create narrower and stiffer walls of a rectangular cross section. Lastly, the U blank with flattened ends is bent into a U shape, creating an upper beam with a nearly circular cross section, and legs with truly flat and rectangular lower ends.

3 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets





US005769499A

United States Patent [19][11] Patent Number: **5,769,499****Dudash et al.**[45] Date of Patent: **Jun. 23, 1998**[54] **MOTOR VEHICLE SEAT**

[75] Inventors: Eugene S. Dudash, Wixom; Mark Stanis, Waterford; Eric A. Smittberg, Berkley; L. Keith Hensley, Farmington Hills; Sanford E. Cook, Belleville; Kevin J. Fudala, Dearborn Heights, all of Mich.

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[73] Assignee: **Lear Corporation, Southfield, Mich.**[21] Appl. No.: **660,523**[22] Filed: **Jun. 7, 1996**[51] Int. Cl.⁶ **B60N 2/44**[52] U.S. Cl. **297/452.18; 297/391; 297/410**

[58] Field of Search **397/452.18, 452.2,**
397/215.11, 215.12, 216.1, 216.13, 216.14,
410, 391; 72/411; 29/417, 523, 897.35;
D6/500, 501, 502; 403/242, 278

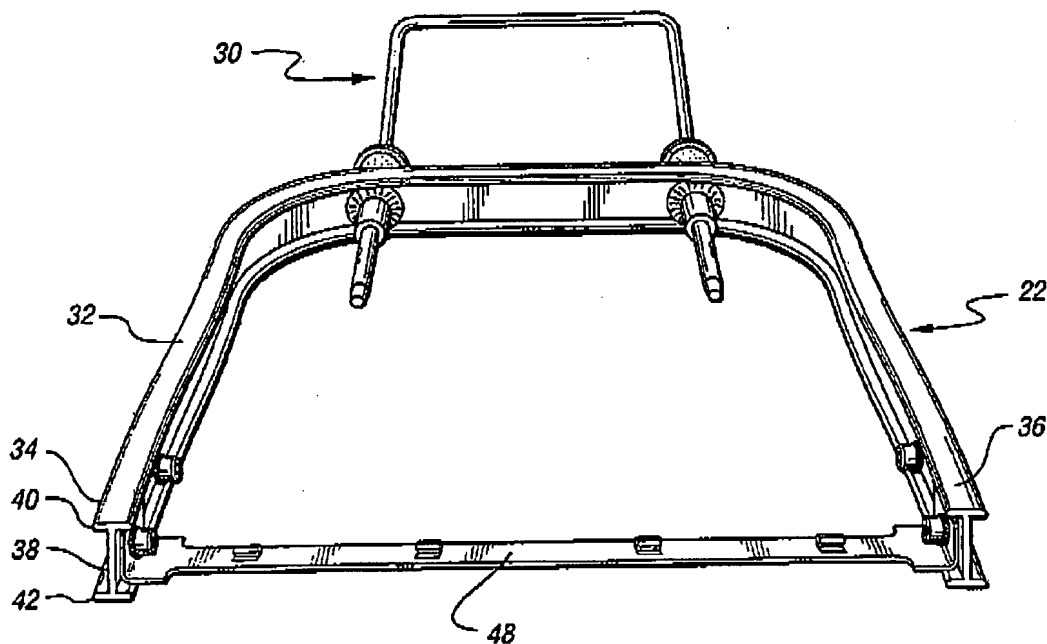
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Primary Examiner—Peter R. Brown
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Brooks & Kushman P.C.

[57] **ABSTRACT**

The present invention provides an apparatus for supporting a seat back in a vehicle comprising an aluminum I-beam formed in a generally U-shaped configuration, and having opposing ends supported with respect to the vehicle for forming a seat back frame. Also provided is a method of manufacturing a vehicle seat back frame, comprising: a) extruding an aluminum I-beam; b) curving the I-beam to a desired length; c) age-hardening the I-beam; and d) bending the I-beam into a substantially U-shaped configuration to form a vehicle seat back frame.

6 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



US005810446A

United States Patent [19]

Tadokoro

[11] Patent Number: 5,810,446
 [45] Date of Patent: Sep. 22, 1998

[54] FRAME STRUCTURE OF SEATBACK

[75] Inventor: Takumi Tadokoro, Machida, Japan

[73] Assignee: Ikeda Bussan Co., Ltd., Ayase, Japan

[21] Appl. No.: 677,938

[22] Filed: Jul. 10, 1996

[30] Foreign Application Priority Data

Jul. 14, 1995 [JP] Japan 7-201334

[51] Int. Cl.⁶ A47C 7/02[52] U.S. CL. 297/452.18; 297/452.2;
297/452.36[58] Field of Search 297/452.18, 452.2,
297/452.31, 452.3, 452.34, 452.36; 138/121;
29/91, 91.1

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Primary Examiner—Peter M. Cuomo

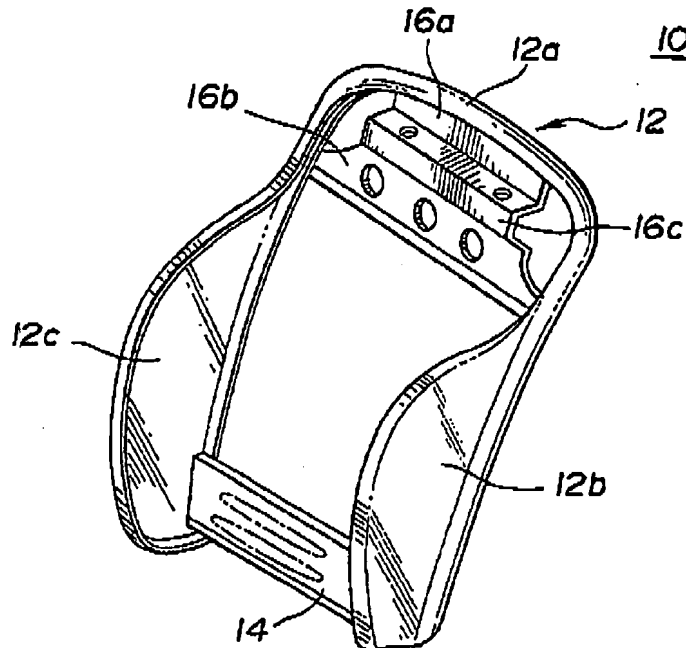
Assistant Examiner—Anthony D. Barfield

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Foley & Lardner

[57] ABSTRACT

A reversed U-shaped base frame for a seatback frame structure is of a monoblock structure, which includes an upper horizontal tubular portion and two side vertical portions. The two side vertical portions extend downward from axially opposed ends of the upper horizontal tubular portion. The base frame is produced from a shaped metal sheet by pressing and curling the same in such a manner that a given portion of the shaped metal sheet, which is shaped to produce the upper horizontal tubular portion, is curled to have a substantially circular cross section. The feature of the invention is that the curled given portion has circumferentially opposed edges which are overlapped each other.

5 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets





US006082823A

United States Patent [19]

Aumont et al.

[11] Patent Number: 6,082,823

[45] Date of Patent: Jul. 4, 2000

[54] **BACKREST FRAMEWORK OF AN
AUTOMOBILE VEHICLE SEAT**[75] Inventors: Jean-Claude Aumont, Errechy; Patrick
Daniel, Paris; Christophe Aufrere,
Marcoussis, all of France[73] Assignee: Bertrand Faure Equipments S.A.,
Boulogne Cedex, France

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[21] Appl. No.: 09/286,657

[22] Filed: Apr. 6, 1999

[30] Foreign Application Priority Data

Apr. 17, 1998 [FR] France 98 05058

[51] Int. Cl.⁷ A47C 7/02; B60N 2/42[52] U.S. CL. 297/452.2; 297/452.18;
297/216.13; 297/483; 297/284.1[58] Field of Search 297/452.2, 216.13,
297/483, 452.18, 284.1, 484

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WO 97/30865	8/1997	WIPO

Primary Examiner—Jose V. Chen

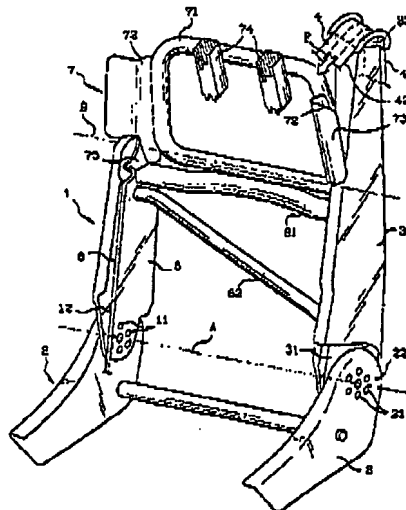
Assistant Examiner—Rodney B. White

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Pollock, Vande Sande &
Amernick

[57] ABSTRACT

A vehicle seat frame assembly includes two lateral upright side members and a brace connected between the upright side members to form a lower backrest frame. At least one of the upright side members has an upper end and it is rigid from a bottom of the lower backrest frame to the upper end, the upper end further including a point for attaching or passing a seat belt. An upper backrest frame is located above the lower backrest frame and is positioned below the upper end of the at least one upright side member. A hinge is provided for mounting the upper backrest frame at a lower edge thereof to the upright side members for allowing pivotal movement of the upper backrest frame relative to the lower backrest frame.

7 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets





US006523893B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Kämper et al.

(10) Patent No.: **US 6,523,893 B2**
 (45) Date of Patent: **Feb. 25, 2003**

(54) **VEHICLE SEAT FRAME**

(56)

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(75) Inventors: Ralf Kämper, Heessen (DE); Norbert Kleismeyer, Obernkirchen (DE)

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(73) Assignee: Faurecia Autositze GmbH & Co., KG (DE)

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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(21) Appl. No.: 09/846,594

Primary Examiner—Milton Nelson, Jr.
 (74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Bourque & Associates, P.A.

(22) Filed: May 1, 2001

(57)

ABSTRACT

(65) Prior Publication Data

US 2001/0052724 A1 Dec. 20, 2001

(30) Foreign Application Priority Data

Jun. 15, 2000 (DE) 100 29 551

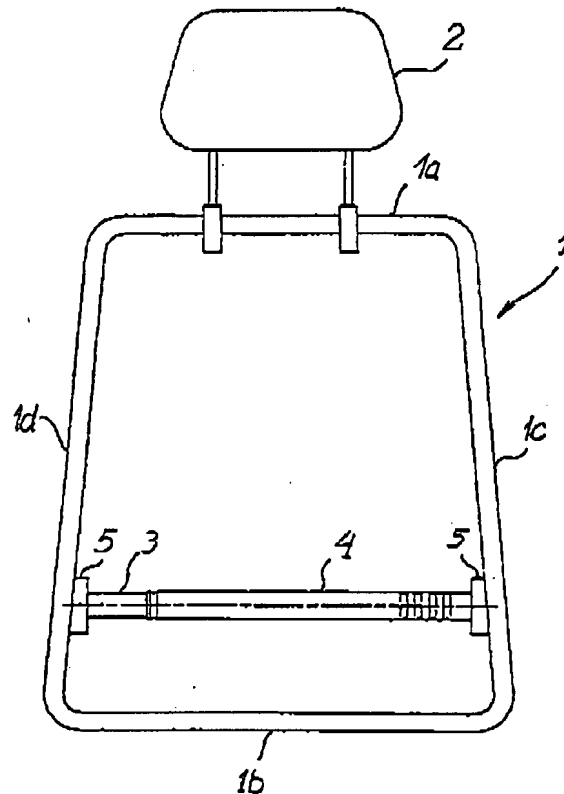
(51) Int. Cl.⁷ B60N 2/42

(52) U.S. Cl. 297/216.13

(58) Field of Search 297/216.13, 216.14,
 297/452.2, 452.18, 452.4

A crosspiece for the frame of a vehicle seat that includes a supporting surface for the occupant. A crosspiece is formed as an element that shortens by a preset amount along its longitudinal dimension when a load is imposed up to a threshold value. The crosspiece includes an intentional bending point that bends perpendicular to the longitudinal direction when the threshold value is exceeded so that the crosspiece does not move in the direction of the supporting surface.

11 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets





US006817672B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Matsunuma

(10) Patent No.: **US 6,817,672 B2**
(45) Date of Patent: **Nov. 16, 2004**

- (54) **SEATBACK FRAME FOR VEHICLE SEAT**
(75) Inventor: **Noriyoshi Matsunuma, Ayase (JP)**
(73) Assignee: **Johnson Controls Automotive Systems Corporation (JP)**
(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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Primary Examiner—Peter M. Cuomo
Assistant Examiner—Stephen D'Adamo
(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Foley & Lardner LLP

- (21) Appl. No.: 10/097,236
(22) Filed: Mar. 13, 2002
(65) Prior Publication Data
US 2002/0135222 A1 Sep. 26, 2002

- (30) Foreign Application Priority Data
Mar. 23, 2001 (JP) 2001-085268
(51) Int. Cl.⁷ B60N 2/44
(52) U.S. Cl. 297/452.18; 297/483
(58) Field of Search 297/188.04, 217.1,
297/468, 483, 474, 482, 486, 452.18, 452.2

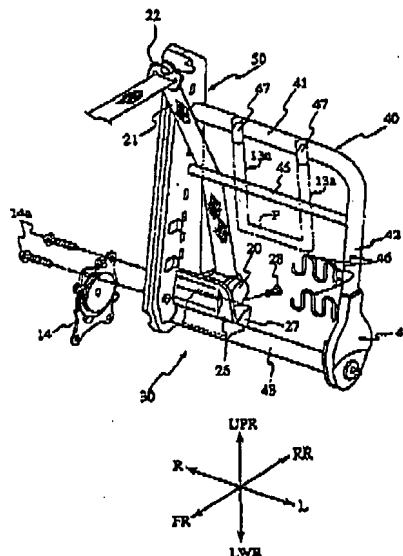
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ABSTRACT

In a seatback frame for a vehicle seat having a seatback and a seat cushion and equipped with a seat belt of a three-point type, a pipe frame formed along an external shape of the seatback and a vertically extending tower frame located in the seatback at the same side as a belt-through member of the seat belt of the three-point type and fixedly connected to the pipe frame are provided. The tower frame includes an outer side bracket, an inner side bracket, both of which are formed of vertically extending, elongated metal sheets each formed in a substantially C-shaped cross section and both of which are coupled to one another in abutting engagement with one another to form an internal space, and an intermediate brace member incorporated in the internal space to provide a reinforcement rib structure.

3 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets





US007213887B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Dudash et al.

(10) Patent No.: **US 7,213,887 B2**
(45) Date of Patent: **May 8, 2007**

(54) **ATTACHMENT OF HEAD REST GUIDE
TUBE TO VEHICLE SEAT FRAME**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: 10/904,938

(22) Filed: Dec. 6, 2004

(65) Prior Publication Data
US 2005/0121955 A1 Jun. 9, 2005

Related U.S. Application Data

(62) Division of application No. 09/820,147, filed on Mar.
28, 2001, now Pat. No. 6,836,951, which is a division
of application No. 09/014,875, filed on Jan. 28, 1998,
now Pat. No. 6,223,436, which is a division of
application No. 08/660,523, filed on Jun. 7, 1996,
now Pat. No. 5,769,499.

(51) Int. Cl.
A47C 7/02 (2006.01)

(52) U.S. Cl. 297/452.18; 297/391; 297/404;
297/463.1; 297/410

(58) Field of Classification Search 297/404,
297/391, 452.18, 452.2, 410, 463.1, 463.2;
403/247, 372, 400, 388, 282; 256/22

See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A vehicle seat assembly includes a seat back frame having
an aperture extending therethrough, and a head rest guide
tube disposed in the aperture. The guide tube has a radially
extending swaged portion engaged with the seat back frame
for securing the guide tube to the seat back frame.

30 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

